

2023.01

vol. **54**

K-Book Trends

offers Korea's highly informative publishing content
to those in the global publishing industry.

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TOPIC

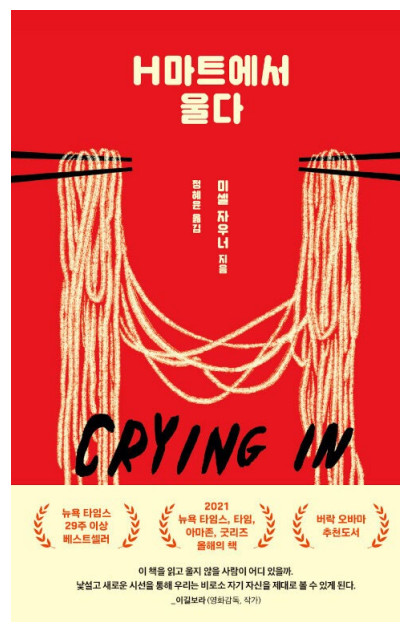
The “Most Korean” Features Penetrate the World

Written by Kim Mi-Hyang
(Publication critic and chief editor of publishing magazine *Gihoeghoeui*)

I met Kristen Vida Alfaro, CEO of Tilted Axis Press, in the UK last September. Tilted Axis Press is the publisher set up by Debora Smith, who won the International Booker Prize with Han Kang. The company introduced *Love in the Big City* (Changbi Publishers) written by Park Sang-Young and translated by Anton Hur to the UK, and the book put its name on the Booker Prize Longlist this year. Also, translated by the same translator, Chung Bora’s *Cursed Bunny* (Arzak) was selected for the Booker Prize Shortlist. As such, Korean literature – or K-literature – has recently been creating a sensation in English-speaking countries. If you take a closer look at the phenomenon, you will realize that diaspora literature written by Korean-Americans is at the center of popularity, such as Lee Min-Jin’s *Pachinko* and Michelle

Zauner's *Crying in H Mart*.

- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 47 – Go to the interview with writer Chung Bora
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1006&code=interview&category=66
- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 48 – Go to the interview with writer Park Sang-Young
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=1021&code=interview&category=66
- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 37 – Go to the introduction of translator Anton Hur
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/info.php?ptype=view&idx=585&page=1&code=info&category=76
- * *K-Book Trends* Vol. 47 – Go to the article about Korean books recommended by translator Anton Hur
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=1009&code=trend&category=64



Crying in H Mart

Mentioning the two books, I asked Kristen, “In which direction can Korean literature grow overseas in the future?” And she replied, “Korean literature is going to extend further than now and at a steady pace. The two books, *Crying in H Mart* and *Pachinko*, are common in that they touch on diaspora. In this

respect, other Asian Americans and Asian Canadians have a deep connection to books, in addition to second- and third-generation Korean Americans. And I think the market will continue to grow in response to this interest. Also, as proof of this, Korean restaurants are continually popping up in various countries, and *Crying in H Mart* has been a huge success in London.”

In short, diaspora literature written by Korean Americans is generating worldwide interest not only in Korean literature, but also in Korean food. Then, what kind of stories do they have, which were strong enough to move the global market?

On the Boundary between Korea and the US

One of the hottest issues in and outside the publishing market is the “historicization of personal narratives.” It means looking at the generational flow and the global trend of a certain era through an individual’s story that was obviously not at the center of the grand history. A good example of this is *Pachinko* by Lee Min-Jin, which was serialized on Apple TV as a drama as well. The book is a full-length novel that features the lives of ordinary people who had no choice but to overcome a national tragedy. It describes the story of a Korean family, who moved to Japan and lived there over four generations. The family history spanning 4 generations, which begins with Sunja’s story and moves on to Noa, Mozasu, and Solomon, is in the historical flow, stretching from the Japanese colonization of Korea to the Korean War, as

well as the bubble economy in Japan. For the “story of ordinary individuals facing a historical catastrophe,” writer Lee Min-Jin revised the original draft where she initially set Solomon, the 3rd generation, as the main character. The protagonist was changed to Sunja, and the title, too, was changed from “Motherland” to “Pachinko.” The title “Pachinko” reflects the tragic life of Koreans living in Japan, who had to choose the pachinko business as the only means to survive in a foreign country full of unpredictable uncertainty, hatred, and prejudice.

Sunja, the main character, begins her story in Yeongdo, an island at the far end of Busan. The story takes place at the time of the Japanese occupation. Sunja’s father, Hoon, who has a lip disfigurement, runs a boarding house with his wife Yangjin, a tough and independent woman, to give the best care for their daughter Sunja. After Hoon dies of tuberculosis, 16-year-old Sunja is left alone with her mother. She later falls in love with Koh Hansu, a Korean fish broker from Jeju, working in Japan. She then has his child, but around the time when she finds out that Hansu is a married man, Baek Isak, a pastor, appears and proposes to her to come and live with him in Japan. 17-year-old Sunja says yes, and the couple moves to Osaka.

After its publication in the US in 2017, *Pachinko* was selected as a “book of the year” by over 75 major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and BBC. In addition, it was nominated as a finalist for the National Book Award. Writer Lee Min-Jin put her name on the NYS Writer Hall of Fame in

2022, and won the Manhae Prize for Literature and the Bucheon Diaspora Literary Award in Korea. The judging committee of the Bucheon Diaspora Literary Award commented, “This desperate story of survival represents the ‘diaspora’ of ‘wanderers’ around the world, who, for unavoidable reasons, are destined to move around unfamiliar lands, while implying the hardships of the motherland, “*Joseon* (the previous name of Korea),” which became isolated due to constant foreign invasions.”

The reason why *Pachinko* was under the spotlight in the US publishing market can be found in the one-line comment of writer Junot Diaz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. “Luminous... a powerful meditation on what immigrants sacrifice to achieve a home in the world,” he said. Thinking of the American sentiment which equates the story of immigrants with the history of their own country, *Pachinko*, which features a chronicle of an immigrant family that thrives by managing their lives steadfastly without succumbing to the vast waves of history, is good enough to draw sympathy from American people. This is also in line with their sentiment, where they are enthusiastic about “Western films” that are mainly about immigrants settling down in unfamiliar places.

Meanwhile, writer Gary Shteyngart asked a question about *Pachinko*, “What does it mean to become a member of a country?” This is a big question asked to those living in this global era and the spirit of the times.

Because it is “Our” Story, After All

Going back in time, there was the movie “Minari” before the popularity of the drama “Pachinko.” This movie, an autobiographical story of director Chung Isaac who was born into a Korean family that immigrated to the US, is a mixture of things unique to Korea and the US. After all, the movie used these elements as a weapon to captivate the minds of both Koreans and Americans, pressing that “button” in the heart imprinted with immigrants’ DNA.



Poster of the movie “Minari”

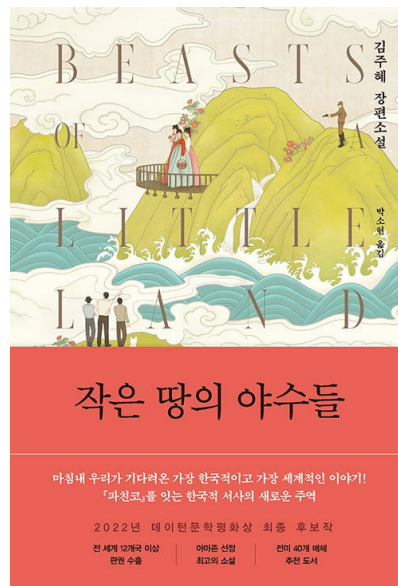
After being released in 2021, the movie “Minari” handed over the baton of success to *Pachinko* in 2022. The driver behind the novel *Pachinko*’s popularity was the same-title drama aired on Apple TV. The novel climbed up the bestsellers’ list only after the news that actress Yoon Yeo-Jung, winner of the Academy Award

for Best Actress in a Supporting Role at the Academy Awards in 2021 for her acting in “Minari,” was participating in the drama “Pachinko.” Then, things rolled out seamlessly, and as the drama drew great popularity, it affected the Korean market leading to the original novel’s further success in Korea.



Poster of the drama “Pachinko” and its original novel *Pachinko*

Encountering the original book, readers came to know that *Pachinko* reflects characteristics unique to Korea. As can be seen from the winner’s comment of the National Book Awards, the pain described in *Pachinko* is a “unique pain” suffered by those struggling to find a home that they can belong to amidst the vortex of war and conflict between Korea and Japan. And, if you look deeper into this pain, you will see history, family, love, loss, and money that contain the joys and sorrows of Koreans – those that any Korean would relate to.



Beasts of a Little Land

Another book similar to *Pachinko* is *Beasts of a Little Land*, written by Kim Joo-Hye. It was translated and published in Korea this September. The writer, who migrated to the US at the age of 9 and is a 1.5-generation immigrant, announced this full-length novel in December, 2021. While sharing similar backgrounds, such as “Korean-American” and the Japanese occupation of Korea, it is comparable to *Pachinko* in that the story is narrated from the viewpoint of the *Joseon* people. Regarding this, the writer said, “I think that if *Pachinko* is a story of survival for family, *Beasts of a Little Land* is a story of fierce struggle for the nation,” at the press conference held on the day when the book was published. “The driving force behind writing this novel was growing up listening to the story of my maternal grandfather, who helped Kim Gu (pen name: Baekbeom) in the independence movement since childhood. Taking the Japanese colonial period

as the background, the stories created by Koreans and Japanese intertwined continues until after liberation, depicting the lives of various people who had to live in such a turbulent era.

Watching how humanity has existed, and exists, in the world through the lives of individuals in the vast history continues until today. Kristen Vida Alfaro, CEO of Tilted Axis Press, who I mentioned earlier in this article, appraised that “Korea has so many works that surpass contemporaneity introduced so far with its long, rich history, that excels “*Hallyu* (Korean Wave)” that has emerged rapidly in recent years.” Also, editor Park Ha-Bin at Dasan Books, who edited *Beasts of a Little Land*, left a comment on the 571st volume of *Gihoeghoeui* (meaning “planning meeting” in Korean) issued on November 5, titled “A Story that Begins in Korea During the Japanese Colonial Period, Passes Through the United States, and Ends in Korea in 2022.” “Once this book crosses the border called ‘Korea,’ it turns into ‘history’ from a mere ‘fiction.’ Even if there is no definition or proof, Koreans will all agree that this story is ‘their story.’” So, while these two people commented on the books about the joys and sorrows of Koreans that migrated to other countries and settled from a foreigner’s and Korean’s perspective, respectively, they highlight one thing in common – special “colors” intrinsic to Korea, be they the unique historical experience or stories about Korea. In short, it can be reduced to a single answer: the most “Korean” content works both in Korea and internationally.

SPECIAL PROJECT

[Korean Scholars ⑬]

International Human Rights Expert, Professor Chung Chin-Sung

Determined Research and Responsible Practice

Written by Choi Ha-Yeong

Is our society getting better? To find the answer to this question, professor Chung Chin-Sung - a sociologist and international human rights expert - has been taking a great interest in human rights status and resolving relevant issues around the world. Particularly engaged in studying the responsible practice in human rights and women, professor Chung served as the president of the Korean Sociological Association (KSA), the Korean Association of Women's Studies (KAWS), the Korean Association of Human Rights Studies (KAHRS), and the SNU Human Rights Center. Her various books and activities are recognized in the global community as well; she was a member of the UN's Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection

of Human Rights and the adviser at the Commission on Human Rights. She was also the first Korean to be elected as a member of the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Let's follow in the footsteps of professor Chung Chin-Sung, who has been dedicated to acting for the marginalized in the world.



For a Better Society

After graduating from the Department of Sociology at Seoul National University and receiving a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in the United States, professor Chung opted to specialize in sociology out of curiosity to learn more about our society. And, throughout her study, she has always mulled over ways to make our society a better place to live in. Then, as the answer to

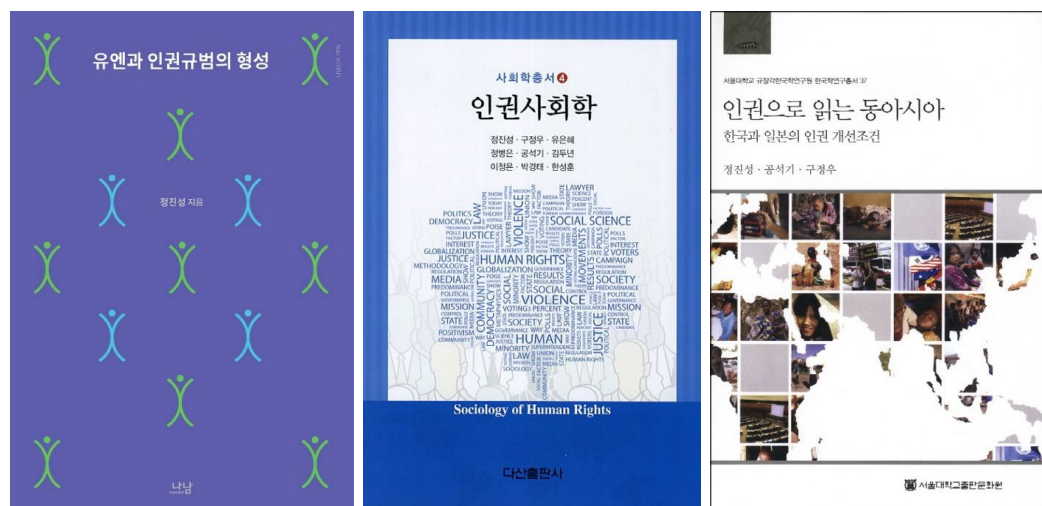
the struggle, she concluded that combining theory and practice leads to the development of our society, which encouraged her to pursue “practicing sociology.”

When she entered university, Korea was at a time when people were passionate about social progress and reform under the military dictatorship. She also sensed a desperate need for reform in Korean society. Thus, she participated in student movements and got to question the value of existence and felt antipathy towards the male-centered society. As a result, she became more interested in gender issues, which naturally led to the feminist and human rights movements. Then, in the 1990s, when society paid more attention to human rights, she began to study Japanese Military Sexual Slavery, which is known as “comfort women.” Professor Chung Chin-Sung, who pursued practicing sociology, met the victims herself and stood up to act for human rights issues, including migrant women in Korea. She also wrote various books and thesis papers related to human rights and the Korea-Japan relationship.

From Theory to Practice

Professor Chung Chin-Sung, who has a long history as an international human rights expert, has written about her experience in her books. For example, *UN and the Formation of Human Rights Norms* (Nanam), published in 2019, is a human rights study on the birth and development of international

human rights norms. It analyzes the process of human rights norms introduced to the international society through detailed examples and explains what readers should do to eliminate violence and exploitation in the global society. Also, the book *Sociology of Human Rights* (Dasan), in which she participated as a co-writer, is a book that acknowledges the concept of “human rights” as an entity and analyzes human rights both qualitatively and quantitatively. It includes thesis papers about the formation and development of the sociology of human rights as well as theories and methodologies. Meanwhile, her other co-written book, *Human Rights in East Asia* (SNU Press), studies the trends and conditions for the improvement of human rights in East Asia, especially in Korea and Japan. It analyzes changes in human rights policies and practices in Korea and Japan, and provides direction for human rights research in East Asia.



UN and the Formation of Human Rights Norms, Sociology of Human Rights, and Human Rights in East Asia

of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan – are called “old-comers,” and those who moved later are called “new-comers.”)

Professor Chung Chin-Sung, who is recognized as a human rights expert in both Korea and the world for her various books and activities, was the first Korean female sociologist to be elected as a member of UN CERD in 2017. She was re-elected in 2021. Upon her first election, she said, “As a sociologist, I will study and publicize how important it is to improve the deeply-rooted awareness towards racism in our society.” Following professor Chung, who has dedicated her entire life to improving the human rights of minorities, including the issues surrounding the Japanese military sexual slavery, women, and students, how about having some time to think about the marginalized in our society once again? Then, our society will become warmer and a better place to live in the new year.

EXPORT CASE

Korean Books Published in Thailand through Nanmeebooks

K-Book Promotion Strategy in Thai Publishing Market

Written by Piyanut Lucksameepong (Editor, Nanmeebooks Co., Ltd.)

Translated by Thanadol Palaphun (Rights Officer, Nanmeebooks Co., Ltd.)

Around 10 years ago, Thai children reading educational comics, whether in bookstores, libraries, or school areas, became familiar to Thai people. With colorful illustrations, easy-to-read content, friendly numbers of characters, well-managed information sections, and various topics, there was no doubt that parents put their trust in educational comics and viewed them as a form of knowledge packed with entertainment that were easy to buy as a gift for young readers.

Unquestionably, Thai people are fond of cartoons. Tracing back to the 90s, when entertainment media for children were few, cartoons seemed to be the only option available. Since then, cartoons have become familiar to Thai people and have had a great influence on them, especially manga. With a rich variety of

contents for all ages and affordable prices, manga has abruptly become popular among Thai readers and continued to grow more and more up until now.

Plus, in general, Thai children tend to learn from visual contents more than textbooks as they are easier to understand. Moreover, the knowledge they acquire can be organized in a desired sequence in their heads, like when they are reading or watching cartoons. Therefore, educational comics are the best choice for parents who want to encourage their children to learn in addition to their school textbooks. The most significant factor which attracts children's attention is the characters in each series which are distinct and appealing; various famous characters are adapted into media to promote domestic trade in Korea, such as a collaboration with products from other brands. This shows an impressive development of Korean comics or "*Manhwa* (만화)."

Nanmeebooks have recognized the potential of Korean educational comics, which encourage reading and learning experiences of young readers through entertaining stories, and make knowledge more attractive compared with books packed with lots of text. In the selection process, we have selected the books we believe stand out, not only with comprehensive contents but also with friendly and appealing characters. Here are some examples:



Why?, Stingy Family and Cookie Run

Why? (YeaRimDang) is an educational comic series that features various topics regarding scientific knowledge in depth and introduces them through easy-to-read and fun stories.

Stingy Family (Jaemibooks) is our bestselling educational comic series of all time. With the story of the characters who live in poverty, but are still funny, the readers can relate to their situation and enjoy learning the economics knowledge presented in a strange and amusing narrative.

The *Cookie Run* (SEOUL MEDIA GROUP) series is an adaptation of characters from the well-known mobile game, “Cookie Run.” There are several subjects, such as Science, Mathematics, Geography, and general knowledge, featured in this series.

These are examples of our famous educational comics which have caught children’s and parents’ attention in Thailand. Trusted by many schools, these series are brought into school libraries and become popular among Thai students throughout the country. Therefore, Korean educational comics have become familiar to young readers, encouraged them to go to bookstores,

and helped develop reading habits in Thai children since then.

However, the interest of Thai children has diverted to other learning platforms, such as Youtube, Tiktok, or Facebook. As a result, Thailand's rate of social media use has ranked 20th in the world (<https://worldpopulationreview.com>, November 2022). As a consequence, there have been attempts to reduce the use of social media among children. With the traits and value of Korean educational comics and the adaptation characters from other media children are familiar with, educational comics are the solution that can change children's learning behavior from the screen back to paper again.

Apart from children's comics, Korea has an impressively developed and high quality entertainment industry, such as movies, Korean dramas, and music, made with support from Korean government and people. Consequently, Korean culture and works have reached and been accepted in every corner of the world. Moreover, an online space that encourages people to freely create contents, like the "Naver" platform, has produced numerous quality works, writers, and illustrators, and has become a source of quality content for people. As a result, the Korean publishing industry has continued to grow, and the works such as essays, tales, picture books, *Manhwa*, or Webtoons have been recognized worldwide, not only in Asia.

With the fast development of the economy, society, and culture, Koreans live with stress, intense competition, and a high standard known as perfection. With these problems, psychologists and

psychotherapists have played a big role in Korean society. There are attempts to encourage people to love themselves, accept the fact that people are imperfect, and be themselves. With this kind of movement, healing essays filled with easy-to-follow and practical psychological guides have followed. The market of this category has become more competitive with different topics, illustrations, and identities.



Bloom publishing (an imprint of Nanmeebooks) have published healing essays, especially Korean works.

With similar social conditions in Thailand, these healing contents have undeniably caught the attention of a new generation of readers, and gained popularity more and more. Therefore, Bloom Publishing (an imprint of Nanmeebooks) has been established aiming to publish healing essays, especially Korean works, for

this particular group of readers and support them. In the Thai market, picture essays with cute illustrations and easy-to-read contents have received much positive feedbacks and have also become collectibles. The factors that affect the interest of Thai readers are 1. Topics in everyday life 2. Appealing characters with clear expressions 3. Attractive cover, and 4. A title that is easy to understand. With the increase in popularity of this kind of book, the contents, and appearance of healing essays have been developed and adapted to Thai culture, which resulted in the continued growth of the market and effects on the perspective of the new generation of readers.

Ultimately, the influence of Korean publications and the entertainment industry will continue to be a great influential factor in Thai people's lives. The happiness, entertainment, and knowledge from Korean works will continue to inspire the new generations, both in Korea and Thailand, to create excellent works for the next generations to come. Hopefully, Thai people will continue to have quality books from Korea to read and be inspired by moving forward.

BOOK TRIP

[Book Space in Korean Media ④]

Namsan Public Library

A 100-Year-Old Treasure Chest

Written by Kim Jeong-Yeon

In Namsan, which boasts beautiful scenery in the center of Seoul, there is a treasure chest that preserves valuable materials. It is a 100-year-old Namsan Public Library, which has storage for invaluable materials, the first public library built in Seoul. West of Namsan Mountain, where Namsan Public Library is located, there are Ahn Jung-Geun Memorial Hall and Baekbeom Square, making it a perfect place to explore history together with the library. Also, along with the “Samsoon Stair” nearby, Namsan Public Library was used as the background for the drama “My Lovely Sam Soon” and “Encounter.” Now, let’s dive into Namsan Public Library and catch two birds – a historical and drama tour – with one stone!



A Cultural Space in the Library

As the reference room and the cultural space are separated by a stairway at the library, people can focus on the purpose of their visit. “Chungnabi Café (meaning blue butterfly)” on the first floor is organizing an exhibition that will last until January next year, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Namsan Public Library. At the exhibition, you can see the 100-year history of the library in detail, from when it was built as “Gyeongseong Prefectural Library” in Myeongdong in 1922 to today. Apart from history, it also provides various information about the library, such as its architectural meaning. At the opposite end of the café is Namsan Gallery, which is an open exhibition area. Anyone

can take part in an open competition to exhibit at the gallery, as it offers exhibition opportunities for regional cultural artists. The 10th FLY, an art exhibition, was held from November 22 to December 4.

Moving on to the second floor, there is a healing complex centered around the digital lounge. To celebrate the 100th anniversary, “Namsan Haneultteul,” which has been renovated recently, has created sculptures, benches, and chairs with fiberboard made from banners and waste clothing. It turned into a meaningful place by filling the space with eco-friendly structures using waste materials. The lobby of the digital lounge is an open space like a cafe, where anyone, alone or with friends, can come around and read books. Moreover, there is a permanent exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary on the theme “100” and another exhibition where you can see “upcycled” domestic items used in “Namsan Haneultteul.” At the K-Culture Zone, you can experience K-POP in 3D, enjoy a K-POP star’s performance as if it were held live, and learn about Korean movies and literature that won prominent awards worldwide.

Furthermore, café Namsan 1922, which got its name from the year of the library’s establishment, displays the first edition of books published in each generation owned by Namsan Public Library. It also introduces books curated by local bookstores and those related to bibliotherapy. You can take photographs inside, which is decorated with props, and enjoy reading leisurely in a more comfortable and cozy atmosphere.



“Namsan Haneuljeon” and Digital Lounge

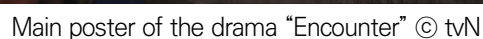


Korean books displayed at the K-Culture Zone and the view inside book cafe Namsan 1922

Library of Invaluable Materials

The Literature Room and the Korean Literature Material Room on the third-floor store all sorts of Korean literature and their translations. Apart from books, the rooms are also holding a special exhibition titled “Meet Books Hidden in the Shelves,” where you can meet old essays published a long time ago. Also, just like the name “Korean Literature Material Room,” the place displays signatures of Korean writers who visited the library. This place is also where the tvN drama “Encounter” was filmed. In the drama, which drew great popularity on Netflix, too, starring Park Bo-Gum and Song Hye-Kyo, the main male protagonist often

In addition, a special exhibition titled “Reading Park Wan-Suh Through Flowers” will take place until January 2023 in the third-floor lobby outside the reference room. The book *Reading Park Wan-Suh Through Flowers* (Hangilsa) looks at the meaning of flowers in the books of writer Park Wan-Suh. Furthermore, the exhibition space in the lobby on the third floor is filled with meaningful literary books owned by Namsan Public Library, along with an overview of the history of Korean literature where you can see what kind of changes Korean literature has gone through at a glance.





Literature Room, Korean Literature Material Room, and the exhibition space in the lobby

On the fourth floor, there is the Humanities and Social Sciences Room and a permanent exhibition of Korea's old textbooks used in schools. The "Kang Yoon-Ho Collection" inside the Humanities and Social Sciences Room displays materials donated by professor Kang Yoon-Ho at the Department of Korean Language and Literature, Ewha Womans University. You can find magazines and newspapers published in the past. In addition, there is a permanent exhibition of old textbooks in the lobby on the fourth floor, where you can get information about the history of Korean textbooks. Plus, go upstairs to the fifth floor, where there's "Mokmyeokwan," a treasure chest of all types of invaluable materials. While it is not possible to directly view the documents as they are designated as tangible and registered cultural heritages, you can read them through the touch screen.



Old textbooks displayed on the fourth floor, and “Mokmyeokwan” on the fifth floor

Namsan Public Library is a repository of precious materials, including tangible and registered cultural heritage. It is also an open cultural space and gallery, greeting visitors in various ways. Plus, add other places nearby to your visit to add more colors – the library will become a more vibrant place, offering not only a nice trail to walk along but also a history trip and a drama trip. Just like Namsan Mountain, which changes its clothes every season, how about making unforgettable memories by walking along Namsan Public Library and nearby places that boast many different charms?

Namsan Public Library

Website: <https://nslib.sen.go.kr/>

Contact: +82-2-754-7338

Address: 109, Sowol-ro, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

ONE-LINER QUOTES

Elementary School Teacher's Pick

Written by Lee Seo-Yoon (an elementary school teacher and the owner of the Youtube channel "Lee Seo-Yoon's Tips for Elementary School (이서윤의 초등생활처방전)")



Magic Candies

Baek Hee-Na, Bear Books Inc.



Children's books heal not only children's hearts, but adults' hearts as well. The first children's book I would like to introduce today is a picture book titled *Magic Candies* (Bear Books Inc.). Have you ever imagined reading other people's minds? Have you ever been upset by your parents for not loving you? The first

appearance of Dongdong, the main character in the book, starts with a scene where he plays alone.

Dongdong tries to pretend he's alright, but he's not alright. He could go up to his friends and ask them to play with him, but he is shy and is not familiar with thinking about others' minds or expressing his thoughts. One day, Dongdong goes to a stationery store to buy some marbles, and he finds sweet candies that are different in color and size. Oh, no! After eating one, he starts to hear weird things – he could hear what others were thinking! He could hear the voice of the sofa, and the voice of his pet dog Goosul! As he takes another candy that looks like his dad's shredded beard, he can hear what his dad is thinking. Inside dad's mind, who would always nag whenever he sees Dongdong, he was thinking, 'I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you, and I love you.' To his heart, Dongdong replies in a small voice, "Me, too." Also, he could listen to how his grandmother was doing, who he misses so much but can't meet. Having heard different voices from people's minds, Dongdong learns to better understand others' minds. Then, he musters up the courage to ask his friends, "Do you want to play with me?"

Magic Candies is a picture book written by writer Baek Hee-Na, winner of the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Clay dolls seem to bring the unique features of the writer's work more alive in the book. Dolls with rich facial expressions as well as delicately made props and backgrounds, make you feel like you're watching a movie. It is also fun to predict whose mind

Dongdong will read next by looking at the patterns on the candy. After reading the book, it would also be good to talk with your child like, “If you could have a magic candy, too, whose mind do you want to read?” or “If I have one of the candies and listen to your mind, what would I hear?”

- * *K-Book Trends Vol. 26* – Go to the interview of writer Back Hee-Na
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/interview.php?ptype=view&idx=550&page=&code=interview&total_searchkey=%EB%B0%B1%ED%9D%AC%EB%82%98
- * *K-Book Trends Vol. 22* – Go to the article about the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/trend.php?ptype=view&idx=616&page=&code=trend&total_searchkey=%EB%B0%B1%ED%9D%AC%EB%82%98



The Dictionary of a Nine-Year-Old's Heart
Park Seong-Woo, Changbi Publishers, Inc.



The next children's book I would like to recommend is *The Dictionary of a Nine-Year-Old's Heart* (Changbi Publishers). This book includes 80 words for expressing one's mind, along with pictures that introduce emotional expressions that children can use in daily life. Some children experience special difficulties in expressing their feelings at school. Some students just say, “I feel just okay” in every situation, and some others only use “It's fun” or “It's irritating” for everything that happens around them. On

the other hand, some students can express their feelings through a variety of words. Looking at one's mind and expressing their feelings through words are related to how well one controls their emotions. If one can differentiate the feelings they have right now by "It's disappointing," "I feel lonely," "It's unfair," or "It's cruel," your emotion, which was previously expressed by "I feel angry," can be better shown to others. It's helpful for their lives and their relationships with friends. The book helps children to learn various emotional expressions through detailed, lively pictures and kind explanations to precisely understand and express their feelings. It also encourages them to feel a wider variety of emotions. Share thoughts like, "When did you feel satisfied? I felt satisfied when I finished this book," while reading the book with your family and talk about each other's feelings. Your life will be more enriched.

KOREAN PUBLISHERS

Wisdom House, Inc

Dreaming of Becoming the Most Reader-centric Publisher



WISDOM HOUSE

Logo of Wisdom House

One publisher is running with its dream of becoming a big and reader-centric general publishing house. Wisdom House is the publisher that recently reshaped itself through brand renewal to get closer to its readers. The publisher pays close attention to readers' tastes and interests and sometimes talks to its readers. Wisdom House prints books and has expanded its realm to web comics and novels. The company is already recognized as one of Korea's most influential publishers, but it never ceases to publish books on diverse themes, strives to be near its readers, and tries new things. Today, we met Wisdom House and heard its stories.

It's an honor to have you here on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce Wisdom House to our subscribers.

The general publisher Wisdom House, established in 1999, recently declared its mission of becoming the most reader-centric publisher in Korea. The company has been focusing on book publication and web comics/novels production as the two pillars of its business. Wisdom House is considered one of the most influential publishers in Korea, seeing that it recorded no.1 in book sales revenue (2018) and was nominated as the Publisher of the Year in 2019 by Sisa-In. In addition, many readers have loved the company for its web comics/novels, which successfully launched in 2017 with its well-made pieces.

Wisdom House recently changed its logo and redefined its color through brand renewal. Why did you renew your brand, and what changed? Also, how does Wisdom House want to approach readers in the future through its renewal?

Wisdom House changed its brand after 16 years and is now ready to meet its readers again. The core part of the brand renewal was to enhance Wisdom House's strength further, being reader-centric. We want to become a publisher that listens to its readers and communicates through its quality content in diverse areas. Wisdom House's new brand symbol took its design from an owl, an animal of wisdom. The logo also shows our mission to become

the most reader-centric publisher in Korea and our commitment to listening and reflecting readers' tastes and interests as well as communicating. In addition, the symbol exists in the form that contains punctuation marks, including a comma, apostrophe, period, and exclamation mark, which shows that we have many stories reserved for our readers.



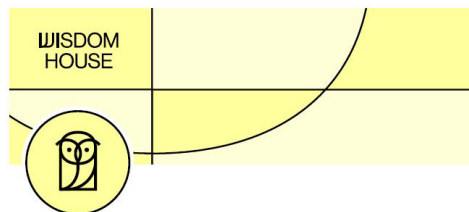
The new symbol of Wisdom House taken after an owl

While expanding its content to web comics and novels, Wisdom House realized that each area's readers differed reasonably. We approach our readers under a single name, Wisdom House. Still, readers of romantic Web Novels and books on business and economy are often poles apart, and we felt the need to communicate in a different manner, reflecting the characteristics of distinctive readers. While keeping a common foundational identity, Wisdom House also wanted to expand to various horizons simultaneously to show our commitment to becoming reader-centric. That is how we came to use different colors but the same symbol for each area.

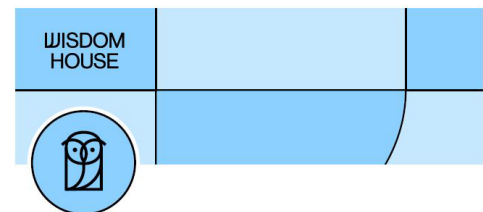
An area that publishes adult books uses the color lemon, mint for kids, blue for web comics, and lavender for web novels. Each area has a unique color and welcomes readers joining that particular area by communicating with readers on our homepage

or social media accounts. It clearly shows our intention to deliver content that meets readers' needs.

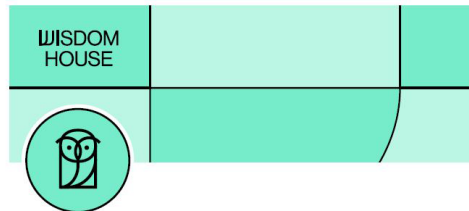
BOOKS



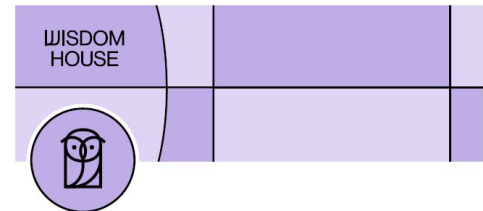
WEB COMIC



KIDS



WEB NOVEL



Through brand renewal, Wisdom House allocated different colors for each area.

We heard that Wisdom House has a new slogan of being “Reader-centric.” Publishing books while keeping readers in mind sounds natural, but not easy for a publisher to accomplish. So, what does “Reader-centric” mean to Wisdom House?

The new slogan released along with the brand renewal showed Wisdom House's vow to become the most reader-centric publisher in Korea. It is in line with the company differentiating its color for each area, one of the core parts of Wisdom House's brand renewal. As a general publishing house, Wisdom House has diverse readers, like the variety of content published by the company. Relevantly, the new slogan holds two meanings. One is that we will create content readers want from readers' points

of view, and the other is about letting the content touch readers' hearts.

As Wisdom House dreams of becoming a reader-centric publisher, closing the distance with readers is essential. What kind of activities are you doing to get closer to your readers?

As we meet readers in diverse areas, we engage in multiple activities to fulfill readers' preferences. For example, we regularly publish AHA-Letter, a newsletter targeting junior office workers highly interested in self-growth. The newsletter has the highest number of subscribers among newsletters published in Korea. As it introduces books and shares information readers want, the newsletter has seen a rapid increase in its subscriber count. For example, if one wonders about How to Work Well, Wisdom House provides books to help obtain relevant information through content or invites an author who can explain it more expertly through lectures or book clubs. For its high quality of information, lectures and book clubs held by Wisdom House are popular enough to record the highest number of participants every time they are held.

Also, for novel and essay readers, Wisdom House runs a book club called the SSA (Story Security Agency), where people gather in independent bookstores nationwide to read a sample before the book is published and share their feedback. The SSA differs from other mere book reviewers as it is a community where

publishers, bookstores, and readers get together. Three tasks are given to readers as an agent of the SSA: Read the sample, gather at a local bookstore to share opinions freely, and deliver feedback on the copy to the publisher. The SSA was initiated with novelist Chung Se-Rang's first essay, *Can't Love the Earth Like We Humans Do*, in 2021 and has been active ever since.

Lastly, Wisdom House hosted The 1st Wisdom House Children/Young Adults Fantasy Literature Awards, where readers became judges for the first time in Korea. The venue was organized to find fantasy pieces that can deliver fantastic and epic pleasure to children and young adults. Unlike other contests, the awards adopted a judging system that concludes the final winner 100% based on readers' decisions for the first time in Korea. Through the new system, the awards will be an opportunity to find works of literature based on readers' experiences.

Wisdom House is increasing contact with readers through diverse activities as a general publishing house. Are there any new attempts other than the ones mentioned?

The most recent attempt is Weekly Fiction, which releases a part of a short novel on the Wisdom House homepage every Wednesday. It is intended to deliver diverse aspects and new stories of Korean literature. The topics or forms of works vary, and novels finish as one piece. Other publishers also serialize novels or essays on their homepage or blog, but they release

them several times in divided parts. In contrast, Wisdom House serializes an entire work every week, which makes a difference from others.

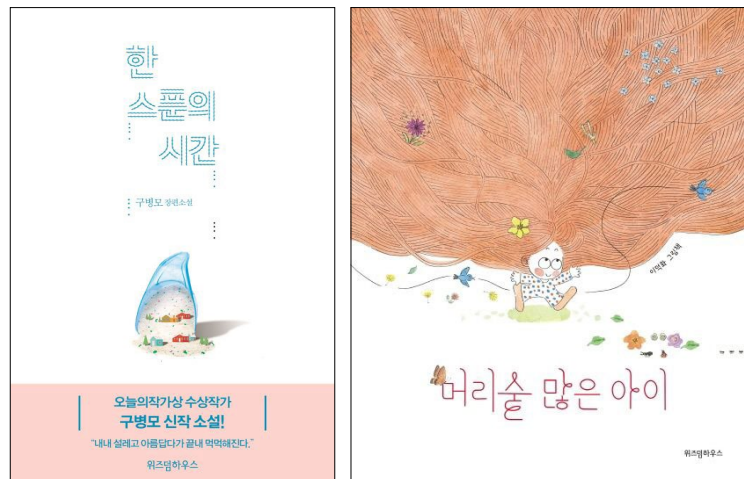
The first series is novelist Gu Byeong-Mo's short novel *Shattered* (파쇄, 破碎). This piece is a supplementary story of the book *The Old Woman with the Knife*. It is a story of a female killer in the 60s named Jogak, a representative piece of the author for its fascinating story. Then, the works of authors like Lee Hee-Ju, Park So-Yeon, Jeong Yi-Hyeon, Kim Gi-Chang, Gwak Jae-Sik, Yun Ja-Yeong, Choi Hyun-Sook, Kim Dong-Sik, and Choi Jung-Hwa will follow every week one by one. When the series reaches its 50th edition, Wisdom House plans to collect each work and publish them into individual books.

To understand readers' needs, one would need to have a reflex to catch the fast-changing trend in the industry. So, what keyword would you use to grab readers' attention now? Also, which area will readers be interested in 2023?

It is challenging for an individual publisher to view the whole industry as areas or keywords readers are interested in vary based on released books. One way to do that is to refer to trend books that broadly show society's overall aspects. For example, if we look at Wisdom House's recently published *Gen Z Trend 2023*, *Trend Korea 2023* (Miraebok), and *Trend Monitor 2023* (Secret House) the keywords of 2023 would be "recovery, adaptation, and

conformity.”

What people face in the current era include recovering from the COVID-19-stricken period, adapting to a new time and situation called New Normal, and conforming to external environments. External environments are what an individual alone cannot make a difference in, such as changes in international trends, including war, high-interest rates, and currency exchange rate hikes. In such times, readers’ interests lie in either figuring out and understanding the colossal structure of the world order or caring for and protecting one’s body and mind. To focus on the former readers, the book topics would include the role of a nation, responsibility as a citizen, the potential of democracy, in which people were relatively less engaged, and geopolitics, which recently saw growth in people’s interests. To focus on the latter readers, topics would include life in nature, focusing on oneself, keeping a distance in relations, and flexible communication. Regardless of what readers are interested in, the topics are on reality rather than time and space far off. Of course, Wisdom House will continue to release books with views on the far future. Leaving aside, as other publishers and we are readying new stories with different ideas and expectations, we ask readers to keep an eye on new and diverse books released soon in Korea rather than the ones to come in the far future.



A Spoonful of Time, The Kid with Thick Hair

Korean content is garnering much attention globally. Wisdom House's books also meet its readers overseas, but there are books not released in other countries. Please introduce Wisdom House's books that you would like to introduce to foreign readers, among the ones not published in other countries.

Three books were written by novelist Gu Byeong-Mo and published by Wisdom House. They are *The Old Woman with the Knife*, *The Boy with Gills*, and *A Spoonful of Time*. *The Old Woman with the Knife* and *The Boy with Gills* were exported to many other countries, but *A Spoonful of Time* is a work only widely known to readers in Vietnam. *A Spoonful of Time* is a Sci-Fi novel published in 2016. The book tells stories about a friendship built between a 17-year-old humanoid robot named Eun-Kyul, which came to work at a washhouse, and Myeong-Jung, who lost his family and lives by himself. It depicts how Eun-Kyul picks up the human's way of living from the robot's point of view delicately and calmly. We want to introduce this book to

readers overseas, considering how heartwarming and touching the story is.

Writer Lee Deok-Wha was nominated as the Illustrator of the Year at the 2010 Bologna Children's Book fair with his picture book *Uncle Portoi* (Treenbooks). In addition, his work *The Kid with Thick Hair* was also included in The White Ravens 2022. The White Ravens contains a list of children/young adult books worth reading from 53 countries selected by the International Youth Library of Munich, Germany. We recommend the book more so as it was included in the list. The book's main character is a boy with thick hair. He is a cool kid who knows how to enjoy his uniqueness. It makes readers reflect on their actions by making readers think if they have hidden their true selves out of fear of being isolated for their unique features. More than anything, the book's main character is adorable and attractive.

OSMU (One Source Multi Use) is the mainstream in Korea now, driven by publication. Books, web comics, and web novels are meeting readers in new forms. Wisdom House hosted a Web Comics/Web Novels Contest with the prize of the winner releasing the work in a video format. It is a prime example of Wisdom House's work in the OSMU business. Please introduce Wisdom House's work reborn as forms other than books, like musicals or videos.

An essay by Ha Tae-Wan, an influencer on social media and writer, *Every Moment Was You* was made into a web comic, web

novel, and even a musical in November 2019. The musical starred Heo Young-Saeng, a former idol, and Yang Ji-Won, showing a sorrowful romance of the first love. Writer An Nan-Cho's web comic *Botanical Life* was produced as a web drama in 2020. The drama was directed by Baek Seung-Hwa, led by Yun Hye-Ri as the main actor, and was broadcasted on the KBS Independent Movie channel. Finally, writer Elise's web novel *She Would Never Know* was produced as a drama on JTBC in 2021, starring Won Jina, Rowoon, Lee Hyeon-Wook, and others.

Writer Mikang's web comic *Drinkers City Women* was published by Wisdom House in 2014 and was serialized on Kakao Web Comics. Afterward, the piece was produced as a Tving original drama named "Work Later, Drink Now" in 2021, and starred Lee Seon-Bin, Han Seon-Hwa, and Jeong Eun-Ji. The drama will run its 2nd Season in December 2022 as it gained popularity while running. Furthermore, the drama and movie copyright was sold to China, which makes us look forward to its global popularity.

Writer Juu Young-Hyun's Web Comics *I Don't Feel Like Doing Anything* was produced as a drama on ENA in September and starred Lim Si-Wan and Kim Seol-Hyun. Writer Lee Ra-Ha's Web Comics *Daily Dose of Sunshine* is currently under production as a Netflix original drama and will air in 2023. Director Lee Jae-Kyu, who produced the Netflix drama "All of Us Are Dead," will direct the piece, and it will cast Park Bo-Young and Yeon Woo-Jin as lead actors.

Likewise, Wisdom House is actively engaging in opportunities

to recreate its published books into diverse forms of content to meet more readers.



Every Moment Was You, Drinkers City Women, and Daily Dose of Sunshine

As a reader, I look forward to Wisdom House's move as it works towards becoming a reader-centric publisher. Please tell us about Wisdom House's plan or ambition.

We are living in an era of diversity more than ever. We will continue to broaden our content spectrum for readers with detailed and clear tastes and interests. Our strategy of becoming reader-centric will lead us to try various things. Predicting which content will be loved is not going to be easy. However, we hope that book lovers and people familiar with reading content, who create an early market, become genuine fans of our content. We also wish that fandom for our publications grows. Finally, we hope that people recognize Wisdom House as the leading publisher conducting exciting and fresh trials in Korea.

KOREAN AUTHORS

Writer Jeong Jia

Embodying the Beauty of Life

You can find various lives in writer Jeong Jia's stories. For writer Jung, who reflects various shapes of life through a warm gaze toward people, novels are a medium to express the beauty she finds in life. Returning with *Father's Liberation Diary* (Changbi Publishing), a full-length novel after 32 years, she has been receiving great love from people for her unique savourable expressions and witty sense of humor, lightening the mood of the heavy story. Following is an interview with writer Jung, who has been shedding light on various corners of people's lives and historical events.



© Kang Min-gu

It is an honor to have you on *K-Book Trends*. Please introduce yourself to our subscribers.

Hello, everyone. My name is Jeong Jia. I occasionally write novels while living at the foot of Jirisan Mountain with my mother, who is almost 100 years old, as well as four cats and two dogs. It's good to see you all.

Your *Father's Liberation Diary*, published in September, became a bestseller. It has become so popular that it was introduced in major media. You must have special feelings as it was a full-length novel you published after 32 years. How do you feel?

I'm bewildered. I just wrote the way I always would, but so many people liked it. It made me happy, but at the same time, I felt

somewhat overwhelmed to write better stories in the future.

You have also written a lot of short stories, such as *Enemy of Capitalism* (Changbi Publishing) and *Talk with the Forest* (EunHaengNaMu Publishing). However, as your recent book is a full-length novel released after such a long time, was there any difficulty writing it? We are also curious to know the difference between writing a full-length novel and a short novel.

For full-length novels, it is difficult to take the first step. For this one, too, I paused often while writing it as I had to check whether the sentences or the organization were losing compactness compared to short stories. I'm also a person who cares about rhyme in sentences. So, at times when I felt that the story was loosening because I gave more strength to the sentences, I had to take the time to fix them.



Enemy of Capitalism, Talk with the Forest, Father's Liberation Diary, and The Partisan's Daughter

The book *Father's Liberation Diary* is an extension of *The Partisan's Daughter* (Philmac), published in 1990, but it seems that the atmosphere has become lighter. Just like our society is changing little by little, did you have changes in how you think by any chance? Also, is there a secret to keeping the right balance so that the atmosphere of your books is not too heavy or too light?

Of course. The world has changed, and so have I. The thing I was concerned about the most was, "Who would be interested in North Korean partisans in this era?" Well, the book is not about them, it is about a father. But, still, the father was a former partisan. So, I set up a number of strategies, which were "write as light and rhythmically as possible" and "distance the main character and the father as much as possible." I think they helped.

Speaking of changes in my mind, well, I got old. I think my sole interest was my own pain in the past. My suffering was the biggest in the world. But as I got older, I realized that nobody is free of pain. Everybody thinks they're suffering the worst pain in the world. As I accepted this idea, the burdens on my shoulders got lighter. Everyone's got that kind of burden on them, don't they? Perhaps this change in mindset has helped me write the story in a lighter mood.

Various historical incidents can be found in parts of your works. Is there a particular reason for writing stories about history?

Well, it is because my parents were at the center of history. And, my hometown Gurye in the province of Jeollanam-do, had been the center of ideological conflict from the Yeosu-Suncheon rebellion until the end of the Korean War. Even people who had no interest in history or ideology were swept away by this torrent, and I grew up listening to their stories from a very young age. So, I couldn't help but be interested in how history affects people's lives (for the better or for the worse).

Spring Afternoon, Three Widows (Asia Publishers), and *The Black Room* (Asia Publishers) are based on historical events that happened in Korea. These two books have one thing in common: both Korean and English versions were published together. What message did you want to deliver to overseas readers through the books?

I don't write novels to give a "message." I just express the beauty of the life I've discovered. If someone reads my story and recognizes that beauty, I can't be happier. I think people's lives are not that much different from one another, wherever you are or whatever race you are. Aging is getting old towards death. And how can one console that melancholy? Can the fact that life in any remote rural Asian country beyond the sea is not very different from life in London or New York be a bit comforting?



Spring Afternoon, Three Widows and The Black Room

When the two books were translated, you must have paid special attention to the perspective towards history and cultural differences. Your sense of humor and dialect expressions work as the icing on the cake in your stories, but it might have been difficult for overseas readers to have the same impression due to the linguistic barrier. So, what points do you need to keep in mind when translating your books to convey the impression as intact as possible?

We had no idea about the dialects. So, we took up the courage to give up on them. No matter how you bring the dialects from certain regions of the UK or the US, the unique taste of the Jeolla-do dialect will not be felt. The translators also had the hardest time with the dialect part, and as there was no other way, we decided to give up. I don't quite know the difficulties of translation, but I think one must have an accurate understanding of the intention and the unique colors of the writer to properly translate a work.

Is there any other book of yours other than the two books that you want overseas readers to read?

Well, all of my books, I guess? (laughs) I think my recent book *Father's Liberation Diary*, would be a good book for readers in other countries as it is the story of a daughter growing to better understand her father.

As your book *Father's Libration Diary* became popular, you also participated in the "Literature Week 2022" hosted by the Arts Council Korea. What was it like to be meeting the readers in person?

Honestly, I don't feel very comfortable meeting readers in person. It is because the spoken language is more direct and less delicate than the written language. So, it is not easy to deliver exactly what's on my mind. I'm a shy person, too. But, one thing for sure is that I could have a better understanding of readers' preferences as I could feel their energy and direct response.

Do you have plans to write another full-length novel? What kind of story do you want to share with people in the future? Please tell us about your plans or goals.

I have been mapping out some full-length novels. There is one that is almost finished, which is the story of a mother. Living with a 97-year-old mother, I get to watch her life clock tik-tok

towards death. I believe that the story of life and death would be my best representation in the books to come. I would also like to write a saga about Korea's modern history, delightfully written like *Father's Liberation Diary*.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

New Approaches to Education in the Korean Publishing Industry

“It will work out somehow, as we’ve started!”

Written by Yi Ong-Nahn (Head of Oolcha Camp)

The Foundation of the Book Publishing Industry in Korea

There are a great many publishing houses in Korea. The number exceeds 70 thousand or falls to 2 thousand depending on how you approach the term “publishing.” Either way, the number is still quite a lot. The reason for this is that Korea has a very simple procedure for setting up a publishing company. All you have to do is declare your company type as “publishing” when registering it. As of the end of last year, the number of firms that reported their type as “publishing” to the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism was 71,319, including newspaper and magazine publishers. Among them, 2,026 were “general book publishers (paper media publishing).”¹⁾ The number increased to 2,711²⁾ in the report issued in 2019. Also, the Publishing Industry Survey³⁾

announced by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) in 2020 reports that the number of companies publishing “general books” and “academic/technical books” was 2,699. As you can see, the numbers vary depending on how the data was collected.

So I tried to analyze the results of the KPIPA Publishing Industry Survey based on the reported number of publishers – 2,699. These 2,699 publishers account for 83% of the entire publishing houses (3,246), including books for exams, textbooks, learning supplements, children’s books, home-study materials, and complete collections. A majority of publishers belong here. They are estimated to be hiring 8,922 people, which is 34% of the overall employees in the publishing industry (26,622). Also, their estimated annual sales are 882.82 billion won in sum, which takes up 23% of the entire publishing industry sales (approximately 3.87 trillion won). It means that one employee is raising about 98.95 million won on average every year. It is almost 100 million. In addition, one of the publishers has an average annual sales of about 327 million won, which is slightly above 300 million. As the figures are “average,” it means that there are many companies that fall far below the amount. But, there are more numbers to take into account.

Let’s go further. Sales of 20 large book publishing companies with available financial statements amounted to 410.379 billion won alone.⁴⁾ Take them out from 2,699, and you have 2,679 publishers. So, the rest of the sales, about 472.42 million won, are made

by the remaining 2,679 companies. (To give you a comparison, Kakao Entertainment, a web-content platform, records annual sales of 427.03 billion won.) If we exclude large corporates, the average annual sales per firm becomes 176.34 million won. Businesses with less than 5 employees accounted for 71.2% (1,921 out of 2,699), and businesses with one or two employees took up 51% (1,380). (Those with 10 or more accounted for 12.4% (334), and 100 or more accounted for 0.8% (22)). The fact that there are many firms with less than 5 employees implies that they are highly likely to be marginalized in terms of the Labor Act, working in a poor environment regarding wages and work hours. In addition, because they have a tighter budget and inadequate infrastructure, each employee will have a higher workload and pressure from sales. This is the stark reality of the publishing industry in Korea.

All Editors are on the New Book Production Line

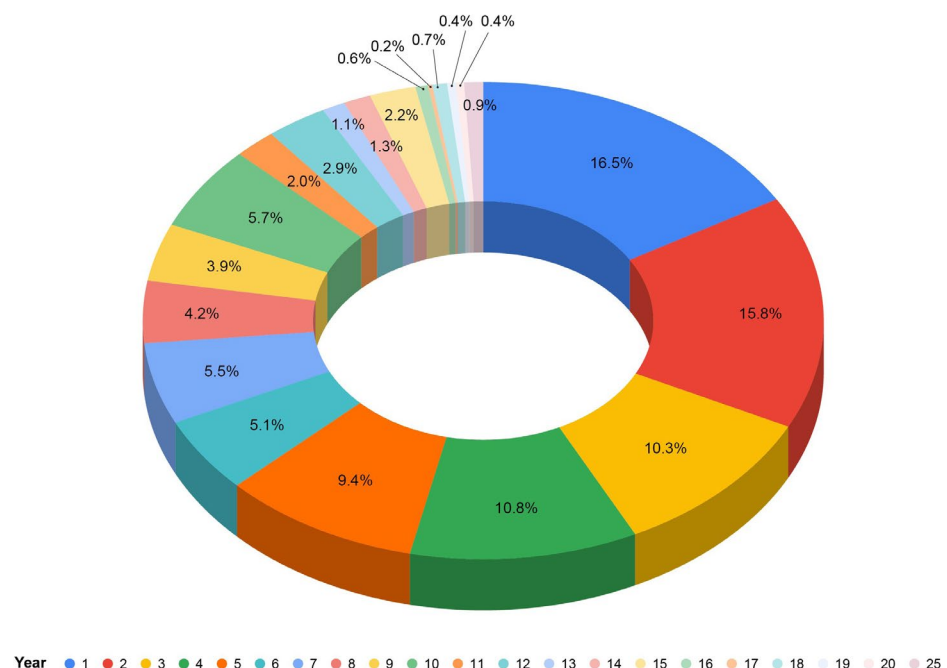
All of these conditions impose a more onerous burden on publishers. Because new books account for a significant portion of sales, editors are forced to develop and publish new products. In the Korean publishing industry, the book production process is called “*Chaegim Pyunjip* (meaning ‘responsible editing’ to translate directly, referring to how important the process is),” and people in charge as “*Chaegim Pyunjipja* (meaning ‘responsible editor’).” Some companies do not allow people in

the team leader position to do “responsible editing,” but there are only a few. Most companies, regardless of their size, appear to release 6, 7, or more new titles every year, involving people regardless of their position. In Korea, the average lifecycle of new titles gets shorter each year. They say that demand for new books declines, especially after 1-2 years of publication. A few years ago, sales in the first three months after publication were 55% of sales in two years and 75% in half a year, but now this period is getting shorter and shorter.

To make matters worse, it is increasingly difficult to hire people with at least six years of experience. Job instability is a deep-seated issue, but there is also an analysis that current workers are turning to web content companies. While there is no official data regarding publishing workers’ age and years of service (due to poor survey response rate, etc.), if we look at the data - “Annual salary in the publishing industry (anonymous survey)”⁵⁾ - released in September 2019, interesting things can be seen relating to seniority. People in the 1st and 2nd years of service represented a large proportion. In addition, the proportion for the 3rd year decreased, again decreasing with the 6th year, and again with the 10th year or higher. In the Korean publishing industry, the phrase “You must prepare to retire at age 40” is not new, but the reality is that you have to think about an exit strategy (including starting a business) after 10 years of publishing experience. The decline in the third year is also significant, but above all, the lack of adaptation to work is probably the main cause. (They

say that the decline in the number of the 3rd year is a common phenomenon not only in the publishing industry but also in many industries.)

Annual Salary in the Publishing Industry in 2019 (anonymous survey) Analysis of the respondents' year of service



* Editors account for 67% among 544 respondents

As sales of new books are crucial to publishers, all editors are essentially assigned to the production line of new books. That's why companies hire experienced people to fill vacancies. They find it very difficult to hire inexperienced people to educate them right off the bat. So, why do 1st and 2nd years take up a large proportion? This is why social education for beginners is urgent. Given the new book-based work environment, there will be many instances where adequate training of seniors is difficult.

Korean Publishing Education's New Attempts in 2022

Publishing education programs are diversifying in Korea today. This is an indication that people are more aware of their needs. The most well-known programs for beginners are the Seoul Book Institute (<http://sbin.or.kr>) and Hankyoreh Publishing & Editing School (<http://www.hanter21.co.kr>). The Seoul Book Institute, set up by an organization with the same name established by the Korea Publishers Society in 2005, has been teaching students for 18 years as of 2022, providing a 6-month training curriculum. Also, Hankyoreh Publishing & Editing School, which is about to open its 83rd class, is a 7-week program set up as a part of Hankyoreh Edu by leading professors from the early days of the SBI.

Adding to these two, there have been new attempts in the Korean publishing education field this year. The best examples were “Han Ki-Ho’s Publishing School,” Oolcha Camp’s “Jipijigi Starter Camp,” and “Changbi Editor School.” The first one, “Han Ki-Ho’s Publishing School,” was created by Han Ki-Ho, the head of the Publishing Marketing Research Institute, in July this year. The idea was based on his special lecture titled, “The New Era of ‘Publitors’,” where he suggested “publitors (a combined word of publisher and editor)” as a game changer for the publishing industry, explaining how we should prepare for the publishing industry with increasing demand for creative innovation. This program is currently running its 2nd class.

In September, a 3-month program, “Jipijigi Starter Camp,” where

participants can learn the roles of an editor and prepare for the position, was newly opened. This workshop for to-be editors was created by the company named

“Oolcha Camp (<https://www.oolcha.com>),” which was set up by myself, after working for the SBI for 10 years as a leading professor. We are currently accepting applications for the “2nd Jipijigi Starter Camp.” Furthermore, Changbi Publishing has also started the “Changbi Editor School.” This is a 12-lecture program organized by Changbi School (<https://www.changbischool.com>) that runs all sorts of lectures. It is currently underway in Seoul following Busan, joined by general participants.

Meanwhile, it seems that other existing programs are doing some makeovers. For example, “Paju Editor School (<https://www.instagram.com/paju.editor.school>),” planned as a part of an international symposium in 2014 by Paju Book City, transformed to suit the purpose of a “capacity-building program for publishing editors.” It ran an open event in February and November this year, inviting editors as speakers. The Korean Publishers Association also opened 8 special lectures for editors in the fields of Korean literature and liberal arts in June this year through the Publishing Culture Academy (<http://kpa21.or.kr>) for its member firms. In addition, “Platform-P (<http://platform-p.org>)” was established by Mapo-gu, Seoul, and hosts monthly lectures related to publishing. The “Word & Bow Academy (<http://wordnbow.net>)” also has short lectures for editors.

* *K-Book Trends* Vol. 45 – Go to the article about “Platform-P”

www.kbook-eng.or.kr/sub/knowledge.php?ptype=view&idx=978&code=knowledge&category=68

Just Going Forward and Doing Our Best Day by Day

These kinds of programs usually target to-be editors or editors with less seniority. However, while there are more various programs to choose from for beginners and the less experienced, companies lack the capacity to hold on to low-skilled newcomers for training. Also, it seems that as editors in demand, the need for basic training has grown. There's also a rising awareness that the publishing industry should break away from its reputation in the past and seek a new direction, considering the rapid development of IT technology and the drastic change in people's lifestyles. Of course, the aim of these programs might not be just "education." It could be a "remark," "call out," or "response," and we don't know how far it will reach in society. "I'm here like this, but where, and how are you?" "What are the problems we are facing?"

Education cannot be a panacea for all problems, and no matter how many programs are out there, they cannot afford everyone to receive the benefit. But, the good thing is that we've made the first step, and everyone will live their way. As there is no fixed answer, we could quickly adjust to the changes and adapt to them. But, there is a more urgent task for the Korean publishing industry. The publishing industry will soon be faced with educational challenges, ranging from leadership education to team leader education, business education, and future education. So, how can we draw a future where people in the publishing

industry can grow with the industry together as a member of the publishing society, free from the concern of having to “retire at the age of 40”? Most importantly, would we be able to “make time” for this future?

-
- 1) Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA)(2022), Publishing Industry Trend (second half, 2021), Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, re-citation of the Content Industry Statistics (2016–2020). In this report, “publishing business” includes “general book publishing (paper media publishing),” “textbook and learning material publishing,” “e-publishing,” “newspaper publishing,” “magazine and periodical publishing,” “periodical advertisement publishing,” and “others.”
 - 2) Korean Publishers Association (2022), 2021 Publishing Market Statistics – Trend Analysis of the Publishing Market Seen Through 72 Publishing Companies and Bookstores
 - 3) Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA)(2022), 2021 Publishing Industry Survey (as of 2020). All the publishing companies are classified as “general books,” “academic/technical books,” “books for examination,” “textbooks and learning supplements,” “children’s books,” “home–study materials,” and “complete collections.”
 - 4) Korean Publishers Association (2022), 2021 Publishing Market Statistics – Trend Analysis of the Publishing Market Seen Through 72 Publishing Companies and Bookstores
 - 5) The questionnaire included (1) annual salary before tax, (2) whether severance pay is included, (3) details of additional income other than annual salary, (4) seniority, (5) gender (male/female/other), (6) comment (optional), (7) monthly income after tax, and (8) field of work

Publishing Policy

Where Writers and Readers Meet

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* Kim Young-Ha Book Club:
www.kimyounghabookclub.com

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* Gmeum: Knowledge Community:
www.gmeum.com

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* Daily Lee Sulla:
linktr.ee/sullalee

Writer Lee Jeong-Hyun

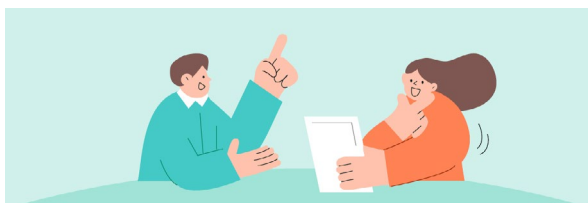
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* Daily Sentiment:
[Ink.bio/Jnghynlee](https://ink.bio/Jnghynlee)



Korean writers have gone beyond books to interact directly with readers!

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NEW BOOKS

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From basic science to
cutting-edge technologies,
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commercialization of
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transformation in 2023, forecast by
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2023 Future Science Trend

Gwacheon National Science Museum, Wisdom House

BEST SELLERS

1st Week, December 2022

Best Seller Trends in the Four Biggest Online Bookstores in Korea


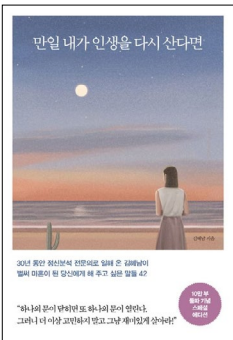
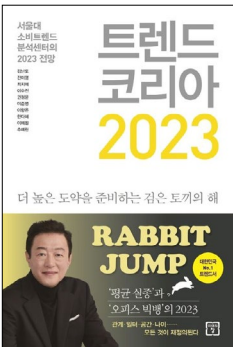
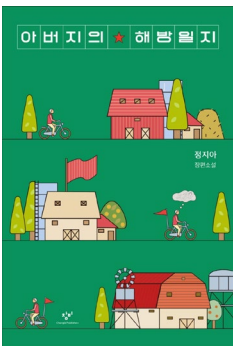
For the first week of December, books that warm up our hearts in cold winter became best sellers in Korea. For example, the *Common Siblings* (titled *Hunhan Nammae* in Korean) series, which has been loved for its humorous stories about daily life, returned with a new volume. The no.1 best seller, *Common Siblings 12*, includes 12 episodes and fun activities such as psychological tests and mazes, making children's hearts flutter ahead of the winter vacation. Meanwhile, psychoanalyst Kim Hye-Nam released *If I Were to Re-live My Life*, which is a special edition of the book *The Reason Why Life is Interesting* (Gallion) published in 2015, commemorating 100 thousand copies sold. Through the book, Kim urges the readers to live their lives joyfully by doing things they like, along with stories she wanted to tell her patients. Also, Mapo Agricultural and Marine Products Market, which has been popular on Twitter for sharing

heartwarming posts and recipes for single households, published *Don't Forget Your Meals and be Happy*, which ranked 10th. If you feel like making some savory food for yourself, this book will present you with the most pleasurable moment that comforts both your body and mind.

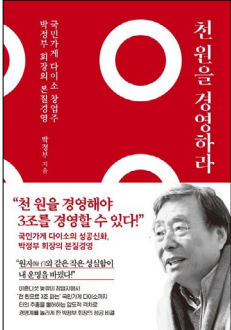
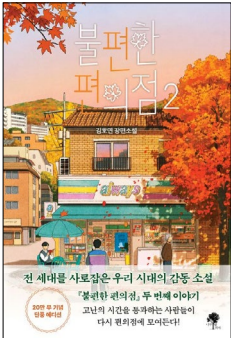


Meanwhile, *Run Your Dollar* ranked 2nd among business books for the first week of December. This book, written by Park Jung-Bu, CEO of Daiso, the most popular general store in Korea, talks about how he achieved success. It serves as a guide for many of those wishing to start their own business. Also, *Money Trend 2023*, a trend forecaster in the financial sector, ranked 3rd among its type. Experts from different industries, ranging from real estate to stock investment, share strategies to become rich. In addition, *Housing Subscription System: A to Z* is a book published by the Korea Real Estate Board (REB), the operator of the house subscription system. It includes everything you need to know about house subscriptions in Korea, from the apartment allocation draw standards to moving in afterwards. The book will be a kind guide for you throughout the entire process of application.

* The rank of best sellers below was organized after integrating domestic best sellers in the first week of December from the four biggest online bookstores in Korea – Kyobo Bookstore, Aladdin, Yes 24, and Interpark.

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of December

1		<p><u>Common Siblings 12</u></p> <p>Author Hunhan Nammae (original story), Baek Nan-Do Publisher Mirae N (I-Seum) Genre Children</p>
2		<p><u>If I Were to Re-live My Life (special edition commemorating 100 thousand copies sold)</u></p> <p>Author Kim Hye-Nam Publisher Maven Genre Humanities</p>
2		<p><u>Trend Korea 2023</u></p> <p>Author Kim Nando and others Publisher Miraebook Genre Business</p>
4		<p><u>Father's Liberation Diary</u></p> <p>Author Jung Ji-Ah Publisher Changbi Genre Fiction</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of December

5		<p><u>Run Your Dollar</u></p> <p>Author Park Jung-Bu Publisher Sam & Parkers Genre Business</p>
6		<p><u>Uncanny Convenience Store 2</u> <u>(Maple leaf edition)</u></p> <p>Author Kim Ho-Yeon Publisher Namu Bench Genre Fiction</p>
7		<p><u>Uncanny Convenience Store</u> <u>(Cherry blossom edition commemorating 400 thousand copies sold)</u></p> <p>Author Kim Ho-Yeon Publisher Namu Bench Genre Fiction</p>
8		<p><u>Seol Min-Seok's Korean History Adventure</u></p> <p>Author Seol Min-Seok, Storybox Publisher Dankkumi Genre Children</p>

Top 10 best sellers for the 1st week of December

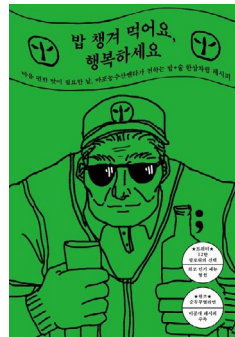
9



My Hero Academia (limited edition)

Author | Kohei Horikoshi
Publisher | Seoul Media Comics (Seoul Media Group)
Genre | Comics

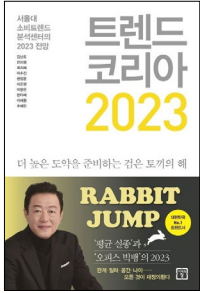
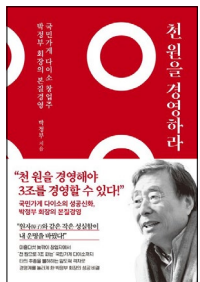
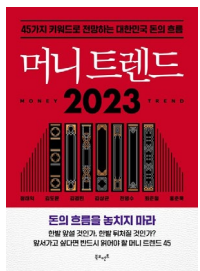
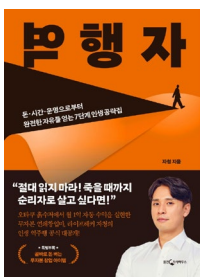
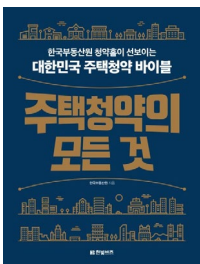
10



Don't Forget Your Meals and be Happy

Author | Mapo Agricultural and Marine Products Market
Publisher | Semicolon
Genre | Cooking

Top 5 business books for the 1st week of December

1		<p><u>Trend Korea 2023</u></p> <p>Author Kim Nando and others Publisher Miraebok</p>
2		<p><u>Run Your Dollar</u></p> <p>Author Park Jung-Bu Publisher Sam & Parkers</p>
3		<p><u>Money Trend 2023</u></p> <p>Author Jung Tae-Ik and others Publisher Book Moment</p>
4		<p><u>Counter Your Life</u></p> <p>Author Jachung Publisher Woongjin Jisik House</p>
5		<p><u>Housing Subscription Service: A to Z</u></p> <p>Author Korea Real Estate Board (REB) Publisher Hanbit Biz</p>

KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Sandy Joosun Lee



Profile

- Korean-English translator
- E-mail: sandy.joosun.lee@gmail.com

Educational Status

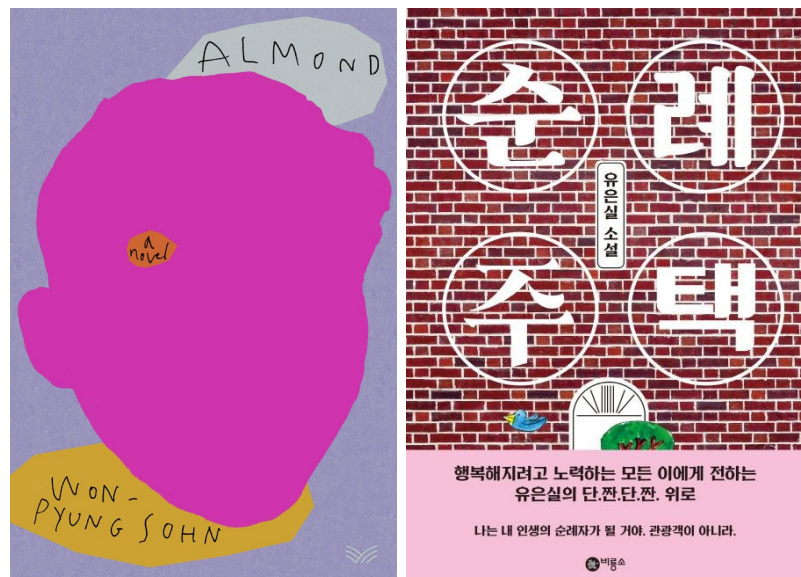
- Graduated from the University of California, San Diego (majored in Literature/Writing)
- Atelier class at Literature Translation Institute of Korea

Career

- Currently full-time translation/interpretation team lead at Studio Mir

Book Translation

- *Almond* by Won-pyung Sohn (HarperVia, 2020)



Almond, Sunrye House

Other Translations

- *Korean Literature Now* (<https://www.kln.or.kr/lines/fictionView.do?bbsIdx=110>): *Sunrye House* by You Eun-sil
- Authorlink (<https://authorlink.com/interview/korean-authors-misfit-boys-teach-us-about-emotion/>): KOREAN AUTHOR'S MISFIT BOYS TEACH US ABOUT EMOTION
- Various promotional materials for overseas publication, as requested by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA)

Article/Interview

- Electric Literature (<https://electricliterature.com/inside-the-process-of-translating-korean-literature>) (with Anton Hur and Sung Ryu)

#K-BOOK

#2022 K-Book Copyright Market

KPIPA Introduces K-Books for Global Publishing Markets through K-Book Platform

*Hostages Trial***1. Publication Details**

Title | Hostages Trial
 Author | Park Eune-woo
 Publisher | GOZKNOCK ENT
 Publication Date | 2017-10-20
 ISBN | 9791188504169
 No. of pages | 403
 Dimensions | 145 * 210

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Seung-il Yoon
 Email | gozknock@naver.com
 Phone | +82-2-6269-8166

3. Book Intro

The Masquerade

At Mount Cheonggye, the third-generation heir, Jo Seong-ju of the powerful J Group is throwing a party. Not only the thirty or so guests, but even the host and the staff are all wearing different kinds of masks. During the party, a bartender in a fox's mask pulls out a gun and points it at the people. The party is over, and now begins the hostage situation.

The Start of a Hostage Situation

The police arrive at the scene to find a van in front of the mansion gates loaded



with huge explosives. The hostage negotiator Heo Wan starts talking to the captor who calls himself “The Master” and says that he is holding some thirty people captive.

The Release

In the second negotiation attempt, The Master reveals the details of 15 hostages in return for a ransom of diamonds worth 5 billion won. The next day, the family of the hostages bring the diamonds they have bought and have the police hand them over.

The Master releases ten women who agreed to sneak the diamonds out. He releases twenty-five people over four different times but even after two days, seven people are still held hostage.

The Trial at Cheongye Mansion

The Master announces that he will put the seven remaining hostages on trial. He broadcasts through the Internet the trial to the whole country. The trial is about the gang rape and murder of a high school girl named Min Ji-yeong that took place nine

years ago. It looks as if the perpetrators are finally revealed, but The Master claims that only five are guilty. He reveals the shocking truth about the heinous crime.

Meanwhile, the police decide to use force.

Two hostages get killed in the process, but five are rescued with only injuries. The Master is found dead shot in the head.

The Judgement is Not Over

A few days later at the SNU hospital, the surviving hostages are hospitalized in VIP wards. At 3 am, when everyone is asleep, from the morgue in the hospital basement, a wheeled bed is moved into the ward of Jo Seong-ju, the megacorporation heir.

*** k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=291**

Intimate Stranger

1. Publication Details

Title | Intimate Stranger
Author | Jung Hanah
Publisher | Munhakdongne Publishing Group
Publication Date | 2017-10-13
ISBN | 9788954648523
No. of pages | 256
Dimensions | 133*200

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kate Han
Email | rights@munhak.com
Phone | +82-31-955-2635



3. Book Intro

One day, a novelist who has not written a novel for seven years stumbles upon an interesting advertisement in the newspaper. A portion of a novel is printed on the front page next to the phrase **Searching for the author**. After reading a few passages, the novelist is dumbfounded. The piece in the newspaper had been submitted anonymously to a literary contest by the novelist long before his debut, and he had all but forgotten about his work.

The novelist contacts the newspaper and asks that they no longer carry the ad, and he receives an unexpected call soon after. The call comes from a woman named Jin, searching for her husband who went missing six months prior. Jin explains that her husband pretended to be the writer of the novel in the ad. But that was not his only lie: Jin's husband was in fact a woman and lived a life of lies before meeting her. Lee Yu-mi, the person in question, worked as an editor at a university where she failed to be admitted. Never having set foot in a music college, she served as a professor at the piano department, and she even practiced medicine without a license. The novelist becomes increasingly fascinated with the life of Lee and tries to track her down in hopes of writing a novel again using Lee as a sort of muse.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=715

Mr. Something Special

1. Publication Details

Title | Mr. Something Special
Author | Jin Sookyoung
Publisher | A thousand hope
Publication Date | 2018-12-05
ISBN | 9791187287902
No. of pages | 44
Dimensions | 215 * 256

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Song Soohyun
Email | song_soo Hyun@hanmail.net
Phone | +82-31-955-5243



3. Book Intro

Mr. Dajeong (meaning kind and sweet in Korean) is a 30-year-old man working in a company that manufactures scissors. He is of average height and has an average face. He wears ordinary clothes and shoes. The one and only special thing about him is that his hair is pretty long. His long hair causes many difficulties for him in his life. People stare at him as if he were a weird person and the CEO of his company criticizes him. Nevertheless, he overcomes all such obstacles to give his hair to sick children. Perhaps what's so special about him is not the long hair that people can see. Rather, it's the warm heart of someone who cares about children in need. *Mister Something Special* tells a heart-warming story about Mr. Dajeong, a special man who goes against stereotypes and gives his hair to children with cancer.

On the last page of the book, there is detailed information about hair donation (how to donate hair to sick children, how donated hair is used, etc.) to help those who would like to grow their hair long and donate it like Mr. Dajeong.

In this book, what makes Mr. Dajeong special is that he has long hair, despite being a man. There is a common stereotype that men should have short hair, and women should have long hair. This stereotype is expressed through the CEO of Dajeong's company. Just like him, we often make the mistake of thinking that people who are different from us are wrong. But men working in offices can have long hair and express their individuality with various hair styles. The author hopes everybody will care less about gender stereotypes and express their own special individuality.

Like Mr. Dajeong, we all are ordinary, yet special. We all have our own special, attractive points. Even if these are not like Mr. Dajeong's long hair, which anybody can notice at a glance.

The author also hopes this book will give you a chance to think about your own special individuality.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1280

The Battle of Tooth Kingdom

1. Publication Details

Title | The Battle of Tooth Kingdom
Subtitle | Jini Bini Children's book Series
Author | Lee Soul
Publisher | SANGSANGBOX
Publication Date | 2011-01-20
ISBN | 9788995640654
No. of pages | 42
Dimensions | 225 * 270

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Oh Junwoo
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Phone | +82-31-911-5055



3. Book Intro

This picture book is designed to help form proper tooth-brushing habits. It teaches children of the importance of brushing their teeth through cavities, who fly in a UFO, and a toothbrush space battleship. Above all, the sight of Jini and Bini fighting with the Chika-chika army makes children who read this book understand that they have to brush their teeth themselves in order to protect them.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2434

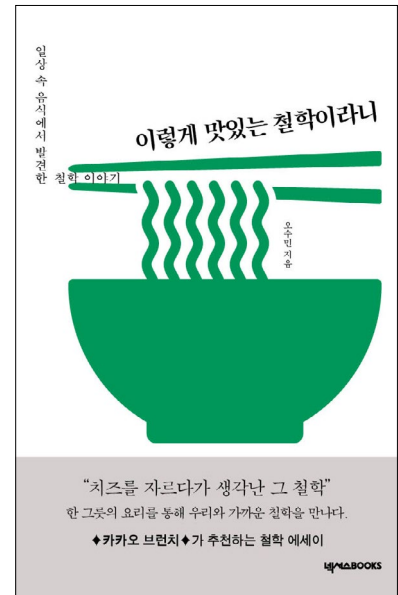
Tasty Philosophy

1. Publication Details

Title | Tasty Philosophy
Subtitle | Stories of Philosophy Found in
Everyday Dishes
Author | Oh Sumin
Publisher | NEXUS Co., Ltd.
Publication Date | 2019-12-06
ISBN | 9791161658209
No. of pages | 248
Dimensions | 128 * 188

2. Copyright Contact

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Phone | +82-2-330-5529



3. Book Intro

This book is a philosophy book that starts not with concepts, but with food. Watching bungeoppang (fish-shaped buns) being baked nice and brown, smelling the scent of Delimanjoo in the subway station, frying “backroom” chicken instead of ordering fried chicken... the writer discovered philosophical elements and wrote of philosophical concepts and philosophers in line with such experiences. No matter what the filling, the buns baked in the bungeoppang pan are all bungeoppang. Here, the writer recalled what Kant refers to as “reason,” the ability to know. A person’s ability for scientific knowledge is accepting the world through a “pan” that already takes a certain form. Does that mean that we cannot experience the raw world as it is, yet to be molded by this “pan of reason”? Is it impossible for a world to exist outside this cognition framework, this bungeoppang pan?

It’s all right if we cannot answer this question. As ideas continue one after the other, readers will familiarize themselves with philosophical thoughts and suddenly feel much closer to difficult philosophers.

The writer began to discover philosophical concepts in all aspects of her every day life after she began studying philosophy. In her daily life, she thought that food, which we eat every day, was a good subject matter where we can encounter philosophy. She talked of philosophy through a dish of food, and as she tasted the food, which resembled philosophical concepts in some ways, she realized how fun philosophy was and how close it was to our lives. She began writing to share the joy of discovering such elements.

Philosophical concepts are difficult. But it would be all too regrettable if we missed

the opportunity to contemplate philosophy and enjoy it as we do food. Readers will come to know “tasty philosophy,” which they can freely ponder over and interpret, a philosophy that they can recall anytime, anywhere with this book.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2737

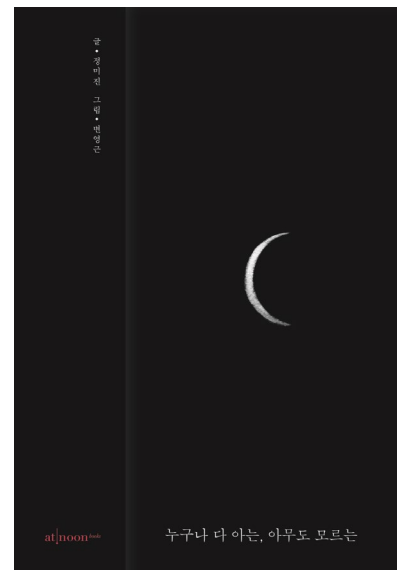
Everyone Knows, No One Knows

1. Publication Details

Title | Everyone Knows, No One Knows
Author | Jung Mijin
Publisher | atnoonbooks
Publication Date | 2017-05-23
ISBN | 9791195216192
No. of pages | 228
Dimensions | 127 * 188

2. Copyright Contact

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3. Book Intro

A girl lost her memories of being kidnapped for 49 days. After 20 years, the memories of those days begin to return to her.

A kidnapped child named Yeonu returns to life in 49 days, but she has lost all of her memories of being kidnapped. The police failed to find the culprit, and the kidnapping case has remained unsolved.

Time has passed since then, and Yeonu, who has migrated to another country, returns to Korea. But upon arriving at her home country, she notices a surprising change; the memories of those 49 days begin to come back to her. As the memories that she had been unable to recall come back to her, a wave of fear washes over her.

But she is not the only one who was kidnapped 20 years ago; her classmate Yousin was also kidnapped around the same time. Just like Yeonu, Yousin came back alive after being confined for 49 days, remembering nothing. And now, after 20 years have passed, the memories of those days have begun to rise to the surface of her consciousness, along with a headache. What are the secrets behind the kidnapping case that stirred the country?

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=886

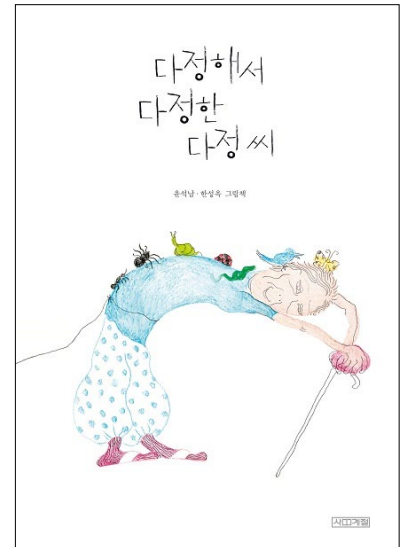
Oh Sweet, Sweet, Sweetness

1. Publication Details

Title | Oh Sweet, Sweet, Sweetness
Author | Yun Suknam, Han Sungok
Publisher | SAKYEJUL PUBLISHING LTD.
Publication Date | 2016-02-02
ISBN | 9788958289463
No. of pages | 64
Dimensions | 210 * 300

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kang Hyun Joo
Email | kanghjoo@sakyejul.com
Phone | +82-31-955-8600



3. Book Intro

In this picture book, Yun Suknam describes the sweet and tender minds of the people whom she has met throughout her life. The life with her husband, a daughter who does not want to marry, a single mom who raises her children alone, old ladies whom Yun met by chance—Yun captures the tender and touching life moments of these sweet people.

Warm and delicate sketches of mothers show “motherhood” in various moments of life, evoking sentiments of caring.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=2935

Thinking People

1. Publication Details

Title | Thinking People
Author | Jeong YoungSun
Publisher | SANZINI
Publication Date | 2018-05-24
ISBN | 9788965455158
No. of pages | 280
Dimensions | 148 * 210

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Kang Sugeul
Email | sanzini@sanzinibook.com
Phone | +82-051-504-7070



3. Book Intro

North Korea is the only place in the twenty-first century where there is no freedom of movement. However, there are people who have crossed the border into the South, as in this book in which North Korean defectors serve as the subject. Through the stories of children like Suji, who came to the South looking for freedom, and Changju, who wants to make money playing soccer, we get a glimpse into the lives of children from North Korea, who not only suffer from loneliness and isolation but are also under constant duress of having to prove themselves in order to be accepted by South Korean society. In a society driven by neorealism, their freedom is limited, and the label of “North Korean defector” is a constant stranglehold. These children do not have the strength to tell their stories, and they aren’t allowed to live their own lives in a space where they are not dictated by ideology or a system.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3015

Bad luck does not discriminate

1. Publication Details

Title | Bad luck does not discriminate

Author | Jung Mijin, So-ra Kim

Publisher | atnoonbooks

Publication Date | 2019-11-12

ISBN | 9791188594092

No. of pages | 60

Dimensions | 190 * 228

2. Copyright Contact

Name | Junbae Bang

Email | atnoonbooks@naver.com

Phone | +82-10-7210-1978



3. Book Intro

This book talks about the hope, that if bad luck in life exists, good luck will also follow. The protagonist wakes up from an ominous dream. He leaves the house with a foreboding of bad luck that something bad will happen today. As expected, the moment he steps out of the door, the protagonist's misfortune continues.

Small, large, trivial, heavy, misfortunes of different sizes, weights, and colors fill the daily life of the protagonist, no matter what.

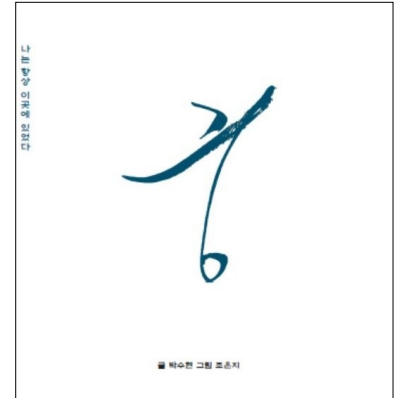
What awaits at the end of the winding alley where the main character is walking? When will the series of misfortunes end like fireworks exploding?

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=3191

Korean Palaces

1. Publication Details

Title | Korean Palaces
Subtitle | always been here
Author | Park soo hyun, JO EUNJI
Publisher | BARAMGIL
Publication Date | 2019-03-22
ISBN | 9791196078638
No. of pages | 128
Dimensions | 200 * 200



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3. Book Intro

Palaces are a space which were protected by people over over 500 years in the Joseon era. There are five palaces in Seoul: Gyeongbokgung Palace, Changdeokgung Palace, Changgyeonggung Palace, Deoksugung Palace and Gyeongheegung Palace. Korean Palaces is a story with a different perspective, featuring the people and buildings of the Joseon Dynasty rather than focusing on the architectural characteristics of the palaces.

Korean Palaces is an easy travel book introducing the five palaces in Seoul. As the subtitle, “always been here”, says, these palaces have lived in this world for more than 600 years and remember the time they spent with Korean ancestors. Over the course of time, the palaces were burned, disappeared, and were restored, and in that sense, palaces are a history of Joseon. Understanding Joseon through these palaces will help people understand the future of Korea. The stories about buildings in this book feature quotes from the *Annals of the Joseon Dynasty*. In the case of Gyeongbokgung Palace, it was burned down during the Japanese Invasion of Korea in 1592 and was left as a ruin for 273 years until King Gojong rebuilt it. Changdeokgung Palace and Gyeongheegung Palace undertook the role of main palace until it was rebuilt and later, when the Korean Empire was declared, Gyeongungung Palace (Deoksugung Palace) acted as the main palace. Through stories of what happened, who was born, who died and what kind of political order was in place, readers will be able to understand the 519 years of the Joseon Dynasty. The palaces are shown in water paintings rather than photographs, generating the sensation of reading a picture book, and “Giwa”(tile) and “Dancheong”(multi-colored painting on wood) are colored with a modern interpretation rather than their original colors. This book helps the reader to

understand the history of Joseon and its palaces, perhaps making them feel a little closer to the old buildings.

* k-book.or.kr/user/books/books_view?idx=1337